Renewable Energy Initiative
Wednesday, July 25, 2007 10:00am-12:00pm
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
168 North 1950 West, Room 101
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Minutes

Definition of Renewables

The definition of renewables was debated with requests to include hydroelectric as a renewable. There was an additional discussion to expand the definition of renewables to include: waste heat recovery and efficiency improvements. One suggestion was given to expand the dialogue of a renewable portfolio to a clean energy portfolio, which would have a bigger impact on air quality and climate change.

Utah statutes and legislative bills were reviewed to determine what current Utah law states about renewable energy. It was agreed to form a subgroup to evaluate this topic in depth.

Review of Smart Grids

James Campbell gave a presentation on Smart Grids. His focus was on the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) "Vision for the Modern Grid". It outlined the goals and vision statement of the NETL research program. See attached.

PacifiCorp described a Smart Grid as two-way communication between user and utility. Hans Ehrbar, from Mom's for Clean Air, explained the importance for creating standards across the multiple grids.

Update on Federal Initiatives

Glade Sowards presented an update on the 13 proposed federal bills related to Climate Change. For a description of the proposals see attachment.

Review of other states renewable initiatives

James Campbell gave an update of the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) and how a renewable portfolio would relate to the WCI. He also presented a condensed version of Dr. Ryan Wiser's presentation on RPS's. That presentation looked at advantages and disadvantages of an RPS and some of the design pitfalls. It also reviewed studies that evaluated projected costs and benefits of an RPS on the different states. The study found that the median retail rate increase of an RPS was about 1%. However, it was noted that it is important for Utah to conduct an analysis using Utah conditions to assess the cost impacts for Utah rate payers. This is especially important since Utah has very low electricity costs; whereas some of the other states evaluated had high electricity costs.